

Appl. No. : 10/692,952
Filed : October 24, 2003

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application is respectfully requested. Claims 1-25 were pending in this application. Claims 11-13, 24 and 25 were rejected. Claims 14-21 were objected to. Claims 14-16, 19-21, 24 and 25 have been amended. Claims 1-13, 22 and 23 are herein canceled. No new matter is added by these amendments.

Applicant submits that this application, as amended, is in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly requested.

Response to Restriction Requirement

The Examiner has required restriction of prosecution to one of the following groups of claims:

- Group I Claims 1-10, drawn to a method, classified in class 205, subclass 98; and
- Group II Claims 11-25, drawn to an apparatus, classified in class 204, subclass 194.

Additionally, the Examiner has required restriction of prosecution to one of a species of movable plate(s) (corresponding to Figs. 1-10 and 12 of the Application) or a species of movable process belt (corresponding to Fig. 11 of the Application).

In response (and confirmation of the telephone conversation between Tina Chen and the Examiner on August 11, 2005), Applicant elects, without traverse, to proceed with examination on the merits of Group II (Claims 11-25) and the species of movable plate(s). Accordingly, Claims 1-10, 22 and 23 are herein canceled.

Allowable subject matter and amendments to the claims

The Examiner has indicated that Claims 14-21 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claim 14 has been rewritten to include the limitations of Claims 11 and 13. Claim 12 was omitted because the "one or more shaping members" limitation of Claim 12 was found unnecessary in view of the "first shaping member and second shaping member" limitation of Claim 13. Claim 14 has also been corrected for typographical errors.

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Claim 20 has been rewritten to include the limitations of Claim 11. Claim 20 has also been corrected for typographical errors. Claims 24 and 25 have been amended to depend from Claim 20.

Claims 15, 16, 19 and 21 have been amended to correct typographical errors. Support for these amendments can be found at, for example, paragraph 29 of the Application as originally filed: "The solution shaper directs a flow of the process solution toward the workpiece for a predetermined time by shaping the exit for the flow of the solution using a high flow section of the solution shaper."

Claims 15-19, 21, 24 and 25 depend from and therefore include all of the limitations of Claims 14 and 20, respectively. Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 14-21, 24 and 25 are now allowable.

Rejection of the claims

Claims 11-13 and 24-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application No. 2003/0106802 to Hagiwara et al. ("Hagiwara"). Regarding Claim 11, the Examiner has found that Hagiwara teaches an apparatus for plating copper on a semiconductor wafer, the apparatus comprising a carrier to hold and move the wafer and a movable solution shaper that directs a process solution toward a selected region of the wafer. Regarding Claims 12 and 13, the Examiner asserts that Hagiwara teaches a solution shaper comprising several nozzles. Regarding Claim 24, the Examiner has found that Hagiwara teaches that the nozzle can be positioned at the center of the wafer. Regarding Claim 25, the Examiner has found that Hagiwara teaches that the substrate is a semiconductor wafer.

Applicant submits that the rejections are irrelevant in view of the amendments rewriting the allowable claims in independent form (see above).

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance and requests the same. If there is any further hindrance to allowance of the pending claims, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

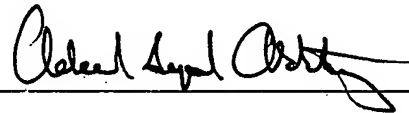
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Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

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AMEND

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